

Psychology: Course Descriptions

[PSY 096/Orientation to Psychology](#)
[PSY 097/Exploring the Psychology Major](#)
[PSY 098/Exploring the Psychology Profession](#)
[PSY 099/Psychology Professional Seminar](#)
[PSY 101/General Psychology](#)
[PSY 121/Methods and Tools of Psychology](#)
[PSY 203/Design and Statistical Analysis](#)
[PSY 212/Biopsychology](#)
[PSY 213/Learning and Memory](#)
[PSY 214/Cognitive Psychology](#)
[PSY 215/Social Psychology](#)
[PSY 216/Personality Theory and Research](#)
[PSY 217/Abnormal Psychology](#)
[PSY 220/Development across the Lifespan](#)
[PSY 267/Organizational Psychology](#)
[PSY 299/Research Seminar \[in Area of Concentration\]](#)
[PSY 311/Sensation and Perception](#)
[PSY 316/Applied Behavioral Analysis](#)
[PSY 331/Clinical Psychology](#)
[PSY 335/Developmental Psychopathology](#)
[PSY 338/Sport & Exercise Psychology](#)
[PSY 340/Health Psychology](#)
[PSY 342/Clinical Psychopharmacology](#)
[PSY 343/Behavioral Pharmacology and Drug Abuse](#)
[PSY 346/Cognitive Neuroscience](#)
[PSY 348/Emotion](#)
[PSY 350/Psychology of Women](#)
[PSY 351/Gender Gap in Science](#)
[PSY 355/ Psychology of Power, Oppression, and Privilege](#)
[PSY 360/ Psychology of Leadership](#)
[PSY 361/Seminar in Interviewing](#)
[PSY 364/ Industrial Psychology](#)
[PSY 365/Consumer Psychology](#)
[PSY 366/Personnel Selection and Placement](#)
[PSY 370/Developmental Seminar](#)
[PSY 371/Cognitive Seminar](#)
[PSY 373/Counseling and Clinical Seminar](#)
[PSY 374 I/O Psychology Seminar](#)
[PSY 375/Social Psychology Seminar](#)
[PSY 376/Seminar in Psychology](#)
[PSY 383/Counseling Clinical Field Experience Seminar](#)
[PSY 385/Seminar in Applied Psychology](#)
[PSY 386/Psychological Testing](#)
[PSY 390/Collaborative Research](#)
[PSY 391/Independent Study in Psychology](#)
[PSY 393/Independent Research](#)
[PSY 396/Senior Honors Thesis I](#)
[PSY 397/Instructional Internship](#)
[PSY 399/Internship](#)
[PSY 419/History of Psychology Senior Seminar](#)
[PSY 470/Senior Topics Study Group](#)
[PSY 492/Senior Collaborative Study](#)
[PSY 493/Senior Independent Research](#)
[PSY 496/Senior Honors Thesis II](#)
[PSY 499/Senior Internship](#)

PSY 096/Orientation to Psychology

0 course units

(every semester)

This advising seminar is required for all freshman and external transfer students (including double majors) enrolled as Psychology majors. Topics covered include general information about the College and services offered, registration processes, degree requirements, academic standards and integrity, and time management. General advisement relative to the major is also included. (Graded P/U)

PSY 097/Exploring the Psychology Major

0 course units

(every semester)

This advising seminar is designed for sophomore psychology majors (including double majors). Students select and attend workshops organized by the Department and advertised on the Psychology Department calendar. Approved workshops focus on the Psychology program, Psychology specializations, Experiential Learning in Psychology (ELOPsy) opportunities and the application requirements, professionalism/ethics, and resume development. (Graded P/U)

PSY 098/Exploring the Psychology Profession

0 course units

(every semester)

This advising seminar is designed for junior psychology majors (including double majors). Students will meet to discuss appropriate topics, including the psychology profession, career options available to psychology graduates, and resume development.. (Graded P/U)

PSY 099/Psychology Professional Seminar

0 course units

(every semester)

Prerequisite: Senior standing

This advising seminar is designed for senior psychology majors (including double majors). Students select and attend workshops organized by the Department and advertised on the Psychology Department calendar. This seminar aids students in making the transition from college to graduate school or industry. Approved workshops focus on career planning, graduate school applications, job applications interviewing techniques, and resume writing. (Graded P/U)

PSY 101/General Psychology

1 course unit

(every semester)

Psychology Core Course. Introduction to major topics in psychology, including biopsychology, development, cognition, counseling-clinical psychology, social psychology, and psychology in industrial/organizational settings.

PSY 121/Methods and Tools of Psychology

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Methods and Tools of Psychology introduces students to asking and answering questions from a psychological perspective. The primary aim of PSY 121 is to teach students to be consumers of psychological science. It is an experiential course in which students focus on learning the basics of creating and evaluating knowledge in psychology. Students learn to appreciate the strengths as well as to understand the limitations of various research methods. Students will read research articles, formulate hypotheses, interpret data, and learn to write according to APA style.

PSY 170/Topics in Psychology **1 course unit**
(occasionally)

This is a Topics Course with no prerequisites, open to and appropriate for first-year students.

PSY 203/Design and Statistical Analysis **1 course unit**
(every semester)

Prerequisite: PSY 121

Restriction: Open only to psychology majors

Psychology Core Course. The purpose of this course is to bridge basic knowledge of scientific inquiry, gained through PSY 121 (Methods and Tools) and more complex applications of scientific inquiry, which is the major goal of PSY 299 (Research Seminar). This course will provide knowledge of basic designs, design issues, data analysis including theoretical and practical knowledge, and communication/interpretation of results.

PSY 212/Biopsychology **1 course unit**
(every semester)

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Psychology Foundation Course. Explores biological influences on human behavior. Topics include sensation, sleep, hunger, sexual behaviors, memory, attention, movement, fear, stress, aggression, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and schizophrenia. Students learn how neurotransmitters and hormones influence behavior, and how these effects are modified by drugs.

PSY 213/Learning and Memory **1 course unit**
(annually)

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Psychology Foundation Course. Applies the principles of learning and memory to behavioral change in animal and human situations. Following the course, students will be prepared to conduct group research and to prepare reports on topics that pertain to learning and memory, as well as to explore more specific topics in courses including Cognitive Seminar, Memory, and Applied Behavior Analysis.

PSY 214/Cognitive Psychology **1 course unit**
(every semester)

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Psychology Foundation Course. This course introduces students to cognitive science. Major topics include the neural basis of cognitive processes, the nature of consciousness, visual pattern recognition, attention, memory acquisition, encoding and retrieval errors, associative networks, semantic knowledge, language, decision-making, and problem solving.

PSY 215/Social Psychology

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Psychology Foundation Course. This course will examine how the real or imagined presence of others influences people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. Through lectures, discussions, class activities, and written assignments, students will learn about the relationship between the individual and society.

PSY 216/Personality Theory and Research

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Psychology Foundation Course. Examines contemporary theories of personality, as well as research characteristics of each theoretical approach. Theories will be critically evaluated and applied to case studies. Cultural contexts will be examined.

PSY 217/Abnormal Psychology

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Psychology Foundation Course. Examines psychological disorders of adulthood, as described in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Complexities of the diagnostic process will be highlighted. Psychological theories of etiology and treatment will be considered, along with relevant research literature.

PSY 220/Development across the Lifespan

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Psychology Foundation Course. An examination of the biological, psychological, socio-emotional, and social/contextual changes that occur during development, across the human lifespan (i.e., infancy, childhood, adolescence, young and middle adulthood, old age, and death). The emphasis is on understanding the important theories, concepts, and controversies relating to human development.

PSY 267/Organizational Psychology

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Psychology Foundation Course. This course examines current theory and issues in understanding and managing organizational psychology: the study of human behavior in organizational settings. Topics such as motivation, communication, personality, feelings, stress, attitudes and group dynamics are examined from both the perspective of the organizational members (e.g., employees) and the organization. The course has an applied emphasis and should prepare a student for entry and participation in any type of organization.

PSY 270/Topics in Psychology **1 course unit**

(occasionally)

This is a Topics Course with no prerequisites, offered primarily for sophomores, juniors, and seniors. It may not be appropriate for freshmen.

PSY 299/Research Seminar **1 course unit**

(students who elect to complete a Psychology Specialization should select a 299 course related to the Specialization if possible)

(every semester)

prerequisite: PSY 203

Restriction: Open only to psychology majors

Psychology Core Course. Students will use scientific methods to address psychological questions in a subdiscipline of psychology. Students will develop research questions, design (qualitative and quantitative) research methodologies, collect and analyze data, and write research reports in American Psychological Association format.

PSY 311/Sensation and Perception **1 course unit**

(annually)

Prerequisite: PSY 101

The basic structure and function of the sensory systems are examined and related to our experience of the world. Topics include anatomy and physiology of sense organs, perception of color, form, movement, space, sound, and illusions, perceptual development, and perceptual motor coordination.

PSY 316/Applied Behavior Analysis **1 course unit**

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: PSY 121

Provides a foundation in behavior-analytic theory and explores how behavior-analytic principles are applied to the treatment of such disorders as autism, anxiety disorders, and developmental disabilities. Emphasis will be placed upon experimental design and data collection in applied settings.

PSY 331/Clinical Psychology **1 course unit**

(every semester)

Prerequisites: PSY 216, PSY 217, and PSY 299

Introduction to common clinical methods of assessment and diagnosis. Emphasis on the most common therapeutic theories and techniques.

PSY 335/Developmental Psychopathology **1 course unit**

(occasionally)

Prerequisites: PSY 217 and PSY 220 (or equivalent)

An introduction to psychological disorders of children and adolescents from a developmental perspective. The course will emphasize conceptual and controversial issues with respect to disorders including: autism, attachment disorders, ADHD, conduct disorders, schizophrenia, depression and suicide, eating disorders, and substance abuse. In addition, factors associated

with psychopathology, especially family factors (e.g., child abuse, divorce) and social factors (e.g., poverty, societal oppression), will be examined.

PSY 338/Sport and Exercise Psychology

1 course unit

(annually)

Prerequisites: PSY 101

The purpose of this course is to understand the psychological components of sport and exercise in order to become a more effective competitor and/or to become more consistent in one's exercise program. In addition, the course will address the psychosocial aspects (e.g., group cohesion, gender and racial differences, team vs. individual sports) and the health aspects of sport and exercise (e.g., burnout, recuperating from injuries, athletes with asthma or diabetes, etc.). Each student will work with an athlete or an individual who exercises to enhance the mental aspect of their performance.

PSY 340/Health Psychology

1 course unit

(annually)

Prerequisites: PSY 121 or ANT 240

Examines how psychological, social, and behavioral factors interact with and affect the success people have in maintaining their health, obtaining medical treatment, coping with stress and pain, and recovering from serious illness.

PSY 342/Clinical Psychopharmacology

1 course unit

(annually)

Prerequisite: PSY 212

Explores how psychological disorders are influenced by neurotransmitters, hormones, and neurotrophic factors, and by interventions that increase or decrease these chemicals. Clinical disorders will include: depression, anxiety disorders, anorexia/bulimia nervosa, attention deficits, dementia, and schizophrenia. Both intended effects and side effects of drugs will be studied, as well as individual differences in effects (due to genes/environments).

PSY 343/Behavioral Pharmacology of Drug Abuse

1 course unit

(annually)

Prerequisite: PSY 212

Explores the pharmacological and behavioral events with several drugs of abuse including cocaine, nicotine, alcohol, opiates, hallucinogens, and caffeine, as well as other drugs such as inhalants and Ecstasy.

PSY 346/Cognitive Neuroscience

1 course unit

(annually)

Prerequisite: PSY 212 or PSY 214

Cognitive neuroscience blends the study of behavior (psychology) with the study of the brain (neuroscience). This course will introduce students to this field by examining the brain's role in behaviors such as perception, attention, memory, learning, planning, and other cognitive activities.

PSY 348/Emotion

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: PSY 121

This course will introduce students to major theories and topics of the psychology and neuroscience of emotion. Areas explored include the role of the brain and peripheral physiology in emotion, facial expressions, cultural differences, development of emotions, social and cognitive aspects of emotion, and the role of emotion in health and psychopathology.

PSY 350/Psychology of Women

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisite: PSY 121

Examines the psychology of women in light of biological, social, and cultural influences. A variety of psychological theories and research findings will be explored to study the development and behavior of women in various social contexts.

PSY 351/Gender Gap in Science

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: PSY 121 or permission of the instructor

Examines the gender gap in science from different theoretical perspectives. Why are there fewer women than men in the sciences? Topics include sociocultural factors (e.g., peers, family, stereotypes, beliefs about ability, and gender roles), biological factors (e.g., hormones, including prenatal effects, brain anatomy and physiology), cognitive factors (e.g., spatial and mathematical abilities), and evolutionary factors.

PSY 355/ Psychology of Power, Oppression, and Privilege

1 course unit

(annually)

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Psychology of Power, Oppression, and Privilege is designed to be a specialized course for the Social Specialization within the Psychology major. This course provides an in-depth coverage of psychology topics, including stereotyping, prejudice and privilege, discrimination and advantage, intergroup relations, attributions, social influence, personal self-esteem and collective self-esteem. In addition, this course provides further opportunities for students to develop their writing, speaking, and presentation skills.

PSY 360/ Psychology of Leadership

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: PSY 121 or permission of instructor

This course explores developmental, cognitive, and social psychology perspectives on leadership emergence, development, and effectiveness. Diversity is an important theme in the course, which emphasizes the roles of individual differences such as gender, race, and nationality in leadership processes. Other topics include emotions in leadership, charisma, and abusive or toxic leadership. The material is intended to be accessible and relevant to students regardless of specialization interests.

PSY 361/ Seminar in Interviewing

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: PSY 121

This course is designed to help students improve their interviewing skills through activities involving unstructured, structured, and semi-structured interviews. These activities cover a broad range of purposes for which interviews are used including telephone surveys, personnel selection, diagnosis of physical and mental health problems, counseling/clinical interventions, police interrogation, as well as psychological research.

PSY 364/Industrial Psychology

1 course unit

(annually)

Prerequisite: PSY 101

Introduces students to the content areas of industrial psychology and the application of psychological theory to organizational issues. Topics include employment law, job analysis, recruitment and selection, training, performance appraisal and discipline, employee motivation, and workplace safety. Using an applied approach, this course will help prepare students for their roles as employees and managers.

PSY 365/Consumer Behavior

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: PSY 101 or SOC 101 or MKT 201

Students will learn to apply basic social science principles and theories to an understanding of the behavior of consumers. Basic psychological principles (e.g., learning, memory, perception, attitudes, and motivation) as well as sociological and anthropological concepts (e.g., demographics, group dynamics, cultural influences) are explored and then examined in relation to consumption processes and activities used by marketers and public policy actors to influence consumer behavior. Cross listed with MKT 365.

PSY 366/Personnel Selection and Placement

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: PSY 121

Introduces the student to the psychometric principles of measurement. Various methods of assessment (cognitive ability tests, personality measures, employment interview, assessment centers, and work samples) will be reviewed with a hands-on component whenever possible. Current issues and misuses of testing and selection will also be addressed.

PSY 370/Developmental Seminar

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisite: PSY 121 and PSY 220 or equivalents

The Developmental Seminar's focus will vary across semesters with respect to both age (children/adolescents/adults) and topic (e.g., Peer Relationships, Child Therapy, Children and the Media). Students may repeat the seminar as topics change.

PSY 371/Cognitive Seminar **1 course unit**
(annually)

Prerequisite: PSY 213 or 214

The Cognitive Seminar will provide students with opportunities for in-depth study of specific topics within Cognitive Psychology. The topic (e.g., Memory across the Lifespan, Human Factors) will vary across semesters. Students may repeat the seminar as topics change.

PSY 373/Counseling and Clinical Seminar **1 course unit**
(every semester)

Prerequisites: PSY 121 and PSY 216 or PSY 217

The seminar will provide students with the opportunity for in-depth study of a specific topic within counseling and clinical psychology. The topic (e.g., Cognitive Behavior Therapy, Introduction to The Helping Professions) will vary across semesters. Students may repeat the seminar as topics change.

PSY 374/Industrial/Organizational Seminar **1 course unit**
(every semester)

Prerequisites: PSY 101 or MGT 201

The Seminar will provide students opportunities for in-depth study of a specific topic within Industrial/Organizational Psychology. The topic (e.g., Performance Management, Training) will vary across semesters. Students may repeat the seminar as topics change.

PSY 375/Social Psychology Seminar **1 course unit**
(every semester)

Prerequisites: PSY 121 and one foundation course

The seminar will provide students opportunities for in-depth study of specific topics within social psychology(e.g., Psychology & Diversity, Political Psychology). The topic will vary across semesters. Students may repeat the seminar as topics change.

PSY 376/Seminar in Psychology **1 course unit**
(occasionally)

Prerequisites: PSY 121

The seminar will provide students opportunities for in-depth study of specific topics within psychology that cut across specializations. The topic will vary across semesters. Students may repeat the seminar as topics change.

PSY 383/Counseling and Clinical Field Experience Seminar **1 course unit**
(every semester)

Prerequisites: PSY 216, PSY 217

Students will complete a field experience in a mental health setting. The field experience will be the foundation for integrating knowledge from various courses in clinical psychology. Class time will be spent in joint discussions of students' field experiences and the relevant professional literature. Both an appropriate piece of written work and an oral presentation to the class are required. Faculty approval of the field placement is necessary.

PSY 385/Seminar in Applied Psychology

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Prerequisite: PSY 121

This seminar will provide students opportunities to examine the application of psychological theory and research to real problems. Topics will cut across many areas of psychology. Each student will select a topic of interest to pursue in greater depth and then apply the tools discussed in the course, to evaluate how effectively psychology can be used to address their topic.

PSY 386/Psychological Testing

1 course unit

(annually)

Prerequisite: PSY 121

An introduction to theoretical, practical, and ethical issues in psychological testing and measurement. Psychometric principles such as reliability, validity, and utility will be examined in the context of selecting the most appropriate assessment instruments to inform decision making. The development and psychometric properties of widely-used intelligence, achievement, personnel, and clinical/personality tests will be discussed.

PSY 390/Collaborative Research Course

1 course unit

(every semester)

Cross listed with PSY 492.

Prerequisites: Sophomore status, a minimum GPA of 2.5, and permission of instructor
Students are involved in the central core of activity in a psychological research laboratory. The laboratories maintain an ongoing scholarly research program, directed by a full-time faculty member, and run collaboratively with a team of student research assistants. Cross-listed with PSY 492.

PSY 391/Independent Study

variable course units

(every semester)

Prerequisites: Sophomore status, a minimum GPA of 2.5, and permission of instructor
Students are guided by a faculty member on a discrete literature-based or empirical research project.

PSY 393/Independent Research

variable course units

(every semester)

Prerequisites: Sophomore or higher status (for transfer students a minimum of one completed semester at TCNJ), minimum GPA of 2.5, faculty sponsorship, and approval of individual study proposal by the Experiential Learning Opportunities in Psychology Committee
Students work with a faculty member on a discrete literature-based or empirical research project.

PSY 396/Senior Honors Thesis I

1 course unit

(every semester)

Prerequisites: Junior standing, a minimum GPA in psychology of 3.3, a minimum grade of B in PSY 299, sponsorship by a full-time faculty member, approval of senior honors thesis proposal by Experiential Learning Opportunities in Psychology Committee
In-depth empirical work (e.g., experimental, field study, survey, or archival research) or a substantial and integrative review, designed jointly by the student and thesis director, spanning two semesters.

PSY 397/Instructional Internship

variable course units

(every semester)

Instructional Interns learn about the teaching of psychology. Students gain a deeper understanding of the particular course content area, gain insight into curriculum goals and methods of achieving them, and develop instructional skills in the areas of providing written feedback, creating and/or delivering learning activities, and constructing learning tools.

Instructional Interns (IIs) are associated with a particular section of a course and work closely with the professor. Instructional Internship can be taken a maximum of two times and cannot be repeated for the same course. Specific duties for the instructional intern are detailed in a contract that is developed and signed by both the student and faculty sponsor.

PSY 399/Internship

variable course units

(every semester)

Prerequisites: Sophomore or higher status (for transfer students a minimum of one completed semester at TCNJ), minimum GPA of 2.5, faculty sponsorship, and approval of internship placement and proposal by the Experiential Learning Opportunities in Psychology Committee. Application of psychology principles through placement in a paid or non-paid work setting such as a mental health, community, educational, business, or government setting.

If you have a specialization, please select a Senior Experience Course from 400-level courses appropriate to your specialization. Students should see the department website and their advisor for suggestions. All 400-level courses count as writing intensive.

PSY 419/History of Psychology Senior Seminar

1 course unit

(occasionally)

Prerequisites: PSY 299

This course will consider how psychology's goals, methods, and beliefs have evolved throughout its history. As a senior experience, this course will allow students to integrate experiences from various areas of the discipline, to analyze and evaluate psychology's past and to make recommendations for its future.

PSY 470/Senior Topics Study Group
course unit

1

(every semester)

Prerequisites: PSY 299

Each course under this umbrella is relevant to a different set of specializations. As a senior experience, students use their prior knowledge as a foundation for individualized study of theoretical, empirical, or clinical issues. The study group is a community of learning in which students direct their own in-depth exploration of a field, discuss their ideas with others in the group, and express their discoveries and conclusions in successive drafts of a major written paper.

PSY 492/Senior Collaborative Research Course **1 course unit**

(every semester)

Psychology senior experience, counts as a Liberal Learning writing intensive course

Prerequisites: A minimum GPA of 2.5 and PSY 299

Students are involved in the central core of activity in a psychological research laboratory. The laboratories maintain an ongoing scholarly research program, directed by a full-time faculty member, and run collaboratively with a team of student research assistants. This writing intensive course culminates in an APA style paper and oral presentation to an appropriate audience. Cross-listed with PSY 390.

PSY 493/Senior Independent Research **variable course units**

(every semester)

Psychology senior experience, counts as a Liberal Learning writing intensive course

Prerequisites: PSY 299 and minimum GPA of 2.5, faculty sponsorship, and approval of individual study proposal by the Experiential Learning Opportunities in Psychology Committee. Students work with a faculty member on a discrete literature-based or empirical research project. This writing intensive course culminates in an APA style paper and oral presentation to an appropriate audience.

PSY 496/Senior Honors Thesis II **1 course unit**

(every semester)

Psychology senior experience, counts as a Liberal Learning writing intensive course

Prerequisites: PSY 396.

In-depth empirical work (e.g., experimental, field study, survey, or archival research) or a substantial and integrative review, designed jointly by the student and thesis director, spanning two semesters. This writing intensive course culminates in an APA style paper and oral presentation to an appropriate audience.

PSY 499/Senior Internship **variable course units**

(every semester)

Psychology senior experience, counts as a Liberal Learning writing intensive course

Prerequisites: PSY 299, Senior status (for transfer students a minimum of one completed semester at TCNJ), minimum GPA of 2.5, faculty sponsorship, and approval of internship placement and proposal by the Experiential Learning Opportunities in Psychology Committee. Application of psychology principles through placement in a paid or non-paid work setting such as a mental health, community, educational, business, or government setting. This writing intensive course culminates in an APA style paper and oral presentation to an appropriate audience.